



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Rural Health Day

WHEREAS, rural communities in Rhode Island and throughout the United States are wonderful places to live and work – they are places where people know each other, listen to and respect each other, and work together to benefit the community; and

WHEREAS, meeting the unique healthcare needs of rural communities is constantly evolving, as rural communities face accessibility issues, a lack of healthcare providers, an aging population suffering from a greater number of chronic conditions, and larger percentages of uninsured and underinsured citizens; and

WHEREAS, ambulatory and emergency medical services are especially critical in rural America, where an estimated 20 percent of the nation's population lives but an estimated nearly 60 percent of all trauma deaths occur; and

WHEREAS, rural hospitals – in addition to being sources of innovation and resourcefulness that reach beyond geographical boundaries to deliver quality care – can be the economic foundation of their communities, with estimates that every dollar spent generates about \$2.20 for the local economy; and

WHEREAS, being a rural healthcare provider provides tremendous opportunities to offer more comprehensive, compassionate, patient-centered and holistic care to patients; and

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Office of Primary Care and Rural Health and the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health play a distinct and critical role by leading efforts to address the unique healthcare needs of our rural citizens; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim November 15, 2011 as Rural Health Day in the State of Rhode Island and encourage all state residents to recognize the importance of this day.




A. Ralph Mollis
Secretary of State

Given under my hand and the great
seal of the State of Rhode Island
and Providence Plantations,
this 15th day of November, 2011


Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor